

Appl. No. 09/935,440
Amdt. dated September 28, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 28, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received the Office action dated June 28, 2005, in which the Examiner: 1) objected to claim 3; 2) rejected claims 1-11, 13-29 and 31-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph; 3) rejected claims 1, 22, 26, 28, 29, 31, 41 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Gervais (U.S. Pat. No. 5,856,974) in view of Berman (U.S. Pat. No. 6,185,203); 4) rejected claims 2-11, 13, 21, 23, 24, 27, 32, 34 and 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gervais; 5) rejected claims 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gervais in view of Berman and further in view of Rowett (U.S. Pat. No. 5,991,817); 6) rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gervais in view of Berman and Rowett and further in view of Leung (U.S. Pat. No. 6,636,498); 7) rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gervais in view of Berman and Rowett and Leung and in further view of Matsuzawa (U.S. Pat. No. 6,389,023); 8) rejected claims 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gervais in view of Berman and Rowett and further in view of Tsukakoshi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,577,634) and Civanlar (U.S. Pat. No. 6,078,963); 9) rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gervais in view of Berman, Rowett and Matsuzawa; 10) rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gervais in view of Bommareddy (U.S. Pat. No. 6,779,039); and 11) rejected claims 33 and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gervais in view of what was well-known in the art at the time the invention was made. With this Response, Applicants amend claim 3 and traverse the claim rejections.

The objection to claim 3 (regarding "and/or") has been addressed by amendment. Applicants amend claim 3 to refer to the routers and switches in the form of a "Markush" grouping.

Applicants traverse the § 112, first paragraph, rejection of the claims. The Examiner apparently contends that Applicants' disclosure lacks enabling support for the claimed "node naming agent" (NNA). Applicants respectfully submit that the disclosure has sufficient support for this claim limitation. The Examiner is

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requested to refer at least to pages 17-22 of the disclosure. In that section of the application, the NNA architecture is described. The NNA is described as comprising a chip that includes a "control register" for each "end of the NNA chip." These pages also explain how the NNA chip is initialized and its modes of operation. Further, page 11 of the disclosure explains that a "software algorithm" runs in the NNA to implement at least some of the functionality attributed to the NNA. Applicants believe that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand how to make and use the claimed "NNA" without undue experimentation. As such, the claims satisfy the "enablement" requirement of § 112, first paragraph.

Regarding the art rejections, claim 1 recites that the "NNA includes a mask register for transforming the global/local cluster addresses in which bit substitutions can be made before an entire address has arrived at the NNA." The Examiner acknowledged that Gervais fails to disclose this limitation, but instead turned to column 13, section 3, of Berman for allegedly disclosing the limitation. That passage of Berman, however, does not disclose transforming a cluster address in which bit substitutions can be made before an entire address has arrived. The Office action itself does not identify a teaching from Berman of this particular limitation. None of the other art of record teaches or suggests this feature. For at least this reason, claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable over the art of record.

Claim 22 specifies that "transforming the local cluster ID into a global cluster ID begins to occur before the local cluster ID is completely received by the NNA." As explained above, Berman, nor any other art of record, does not have such a teaching. For at least this reason, claim 22 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable over the art of record.

Claim 26 specifies that "transforming the global cluster address into a local cluster address begins to occur before the global cluster address is completely received by the NNA." For at least the reasons expressed above, claim 26 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable over the art of record.

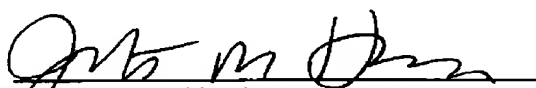
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Claim 28 specifies that "transforming the local cluster address and transforming the global cluster address begin to occur before the local and global cluster addresses, respectively, are completely received by the translation means." For at least the reasons expressed above, claim 28 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable over the art of record.

Claim 29 requires that address transforming begins to occur before the address that is being transformed is completely received. For at least the reasons noted above, claim 29 and all claims dependent therefrom are allowable over the art of record.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,


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